

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in the above-referenced patent application. In this response, claims 1, 6, 8, 9, 10, 15, 17-19 and 21 have been amended, and no claims have been cancelled or added. It is noted that these claims were not amended to overcome any previously-presented rejections since none were rejected, or to overcome any cited references since all claims are allowable subject to *Ex parte* Quayle issues. Rather, the claims were amended to address formal matters noted by the Examiner, and to address grammatical issues. Furthermore, it is believed that these amendments do not narrow claim scope. Rather, in some cases, the claims may even be broadened. Therefore, no prosecution history estoppel should result from these claim amendments.

Status of the Claims

In the Office Action, dated February 27, 2006, the Examiner closed prosecution on the merits under *Ex parte* Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213, and requested clarification of claims 11 and 12 for formal matters. Assignee has amended claim 10 to address the formal matters noted by the Examiner. It is respectfully submitted that the amendment to claim 10 should provide the clarity requested by the Examiner with respect to claims 11 and 12. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that all *Ex parte* Quayle issues have been addressed, and claims 11 and 12 are now formally in a condition for allowance.

Additionally, in the Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 1-10 and 13-22. Assignee would like to thank the Examiner for finding allowable subject matter. It is respectfully submitted that all claims now pending are in a condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner enter the amendments to claims 1, 6, 8, 9, 10, 15, 17-19 and 21, and allow claims 1-22 to proceed to allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims pending in this patent application, as amended, are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, she is invited to contact the undersigned at (503) 439-6500. Reconsideration of this patent application and early allowance of all the claims is respectfully requested.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges of any fees required for this submission to Deposit Account number 50-3703.

Dated: _____

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Respectfully submitted,



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